10/03/23 • BIG TECH › VIEWS

'We Are All Harmed When Our Rulers Silence Criticism'

Aaron Kheriaty, plaintiff in the landmark social media censorship case Missouri v. Biden, said officials treated social media companies as "puppets" to censor unwelcome speech. This "mind control," Kheriaty said, allowed misguided policies to persist.

By Brownstone Institute

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By Aaron Kheriaty

I am one of five private plaintiffs in the landmark free speech case Missouri v. Biden.

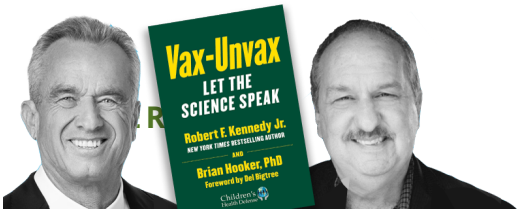
Earlier this month, the 5th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals found that the government "engaged in a years-long pressure campaign designed to ensure that the censorship [on social media] aligned with the government's preferred viewpoints" and that "the platforms, in capitulation to state-sponsored pressure, changed their moderation policies."

This resulted in the censoring of constitutionally protected speech of hundreds of thousands of Americans, tens of millions of times. Based on this finding, the 5th Circuit in part upheld an injunction on certain public officials put in place by a district court.

Even when the government appealed the injunction to the 5th Circuit, its lawyers hardly disputeda single factual findingfrom the court's ruling.

A unanimous three-judge panel upheld the core findings that "several officials — namely the White House, the Surgeon General, the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention], and the FBI — likely coerced or significantly encouraged social-media platforms to moderate content, rendering those decisions state actions. In doing so, the officials likely violated the First Amendment."

RFK Jr. and Brian Hooker's
New Book: "Vax-Unvax"



The government again appealed the injunction to the U.S. Supreme Court, where we expect a